

that had happened in the past connected to deregulation of Wall Street.

We were staring down the worst recession since the Great Depression. Today, we are about to embark back down that path to deregulate Wall Street again. Don't do it.

REMEMBERING ROBERT JORDAN

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor my friend, lifetime Fayetteville resident and entrepreneur, Robert Jordan, who passed away on December 16, 2014.

In 1952, Robert got his first job in retail at the age of 17 at the old Travis Hardware store in downtown Fayetteville. During his visits to various warehouses around town, Robert noticed items seemingly not for sale and placed off to the side. Eventually, he realized he could cheaply buy some of those discarded items, take them back to downtown Fayetteville, and sell them for a profit, while still offering his customers a good deal.

By the early 1970s, Robert was giving full-time attention to buying and selling salvage merchandise and became well-known for his wheeling and dealing. If you wanted to know anything about the community in Fayette County or if you wanted to win an election, you would see Robert Jordan. Robert was the guy to go to.

Jordan Sales and Salvage became popular and profitable, and it is a fine example of what American entrepreneurship is all about. The way Robert ran his business and treated customers as his friends is a true statement of the compassion and faith involved in all the aspects of his daily life, especially the big love he had for his family.

Joan and I send our condolences and prayers to the Jordan family, especially his wife of 60 years, Nellie, during this difficult time, and I am thankful to have met Robert and to have visited his store from time to time, but I am especially lucky to call him my friend.

Robert, until we meet again, we miss you.

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand against the tactics used by the House Republicans for their partisan fights. I find it unconscionable that the House Republicans would threaten the funding of the Department of Homeland Security over the President's executive action on immigration.

We just saw what happened to our friends in France, and now, they are

going to play games with our national security and threaten its funding. This executive action isn't an election strategy or a scheme to grow the Federal Government; it is a moral imperative.

The President acted because this House refused to even vote on the bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill. It was widely expected that a vote on that bill would have succeeded.

Our broken immigration system has forced millions to live their lives in fear. The President's action is the right thing to do, is the humane thing to do.

I oppose the defunding of this executive action, Mr. Speaker, and I oppose the threatening of the funding of the Department of Homeland Security and, by extension, our national security.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PENN STATE WORLD CAMPUS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Penn State World Campus on being ranked number one in the Nation for the best online bachelor's programs in the country.

The recognition was given by the U.S. News & World Report's 2015 Best Online Programs and marks the highest ever ranking for the university; further, Penn State ranks in the top 10 for the best online graduate programs in business, engineering, education, and computer information technology.

The assessment criteria included student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services, and technology.

Penn State World Campus, which provides high-quality online education to meet the needs of busy adults who want to advance their careers, currently has 10,805 students enrolled in 119 degree and certificate programs.

The third year that U.S. News & World Report has ranked online degree programs, almost 300 institutions that offer online bachelor degrees are included in the rankings.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my alma mater for this esteemed recognition, including the talented staff and the innovative educators at Penn State University.

DON'T PICK POLITICS OVER COUNTRY

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of our Nation's continued safety and national security. Recent world events vividly remind us of the importance of supporting and maintaining a strong and robust homeland security policy.

Today, we are going to vote on H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Security

Appropriations Act, and it provides for critical, important funding to the Department, including vital support for essential law enforcement activities and programs.

I had hoped that my Republican colleagues would bring this bill, a clean bill, to the floor; instead, we have more politics as usual. A bill that would actually be signed into law by the President is what this country needs; however, what we have is not that case today.

It is unfortunate and extremely upsetting that the Republicans are now threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, endangering the security of our entire country and appeasing the most extreme anti-immigration reform fringes of their party.

This is simply politics over country and should not be a part of the debate surrounding our critically important appropriations bills for Homeland Security.

The five amendments that the Republicans plan to attach to the bipartisan Homeland Security bill represent some of the most extreme anti-immigration legislation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject these amendments, reject this partisan gamesmanship that threatens our national security, and call on the majority to vote on and pass the original version of H.R. 240.

MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE HOMELESS

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the wind chill in Buffalo, New York, was 20 below zero. Dead of hypothermia was Ronald Hunter. He was 21 and had untreated schizophrenia.

A third of the Nation's 750,000 homeless are so severely mentally ill that they cannot take care of themselves. They starve, they freeze, they live in their own squalor.

Had Ronald had some other brain disease like Alzheimer's, he might very well be alive today, but because he had a mental illness, the system refused to help.

Ronald's father told The Buffalo News:

"When he was living with us, I found him curled up in a ball in the corner of the bedroom," and I said, "What is wrong, baby?"

He replied to his dad, "I am hearing voices telling me to kill myself."

Ronald's parents called Crisis Services, but as his stepmom said, "Because he was 18, it was up to him if he wanted help." In other words, we let him die with his rights on.

Don't you understand, America, that this is a brain disease; it is not a choice?

I will soon be reintroducing the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis